

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year A): ~ 17/18 December 2022



## THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF GORDON

St. Brigid's, Ballan ~ St. Patrick's, Gordon ~ St. Michael's, Springbank

Parish Priest: Fr. Justin Driscoll - ☎ 5368 9280

Parish Leadership Team: Sue Daly, Joan Bourke, Shane Carey, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher, Nola Kersley

Ex-Officio members: Paul McDowell & Jayne Bosworth. Safeguarding Officer: Aileen Toohey

Parish Secretary/Parish Office (Tuesdays 9.30am-2.30pm): ☎ 5368 9280 or 0492 903 409

✉ gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au ~ 🌐 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links)

**PARISH VISION:** That all parishioners and visitors are welcomed as family and nourished as the Body of Christ

We are a child-safe Parish. We follow Child Safe Standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

Parish Schools

**St. Brigid's Primary School**

Principal: Ms Jayne Bosworth:

☎ 5368 1015

[www.sbballan.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sbballan.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Patrick's Primary School**

Principal: Mr Paul McDowell

☎ 5368 9495

[www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au)

### Collections last week

<b>Presbytery:</b> \$473.70	<b>Parish:</b> \$86.00
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**Advent Anointing Masses Next Week:** St Patrick's Gordon at 10.30am Tuesday December 20 and Ballan Hostel at 10.30am Thursday December 22

### Christmas Refreshments after Mass – All Welcome:

**St Patrick's Gordon:** 18 December after 8.45am Sunday mass. Christmas cake, port and fruit juice.

**St Brigid's Ballan:** 18 December after 10.30am Sunday mass - cake and a cuppa after mass.

**Parish End of Year Celebration:** Many parishioners from the Ballan, Gordon and Springbank Church communities gathered at Donegan's farm for the Parish annual end of year celebration. Parishioners from the Bungaree Parish were also welcomed. The Parish Leadership Team used the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Lin Bowers, Beth Calleja and Marie Shanahan who have each concluded significant ministries in the Parish. Prior to moving out of

the parish, Lin served the St Brigid's community in Ballan as well the Parish in a variety of ministries including being one of the Parish Coordinators. Beth Calleja has served the Gordon community as sacristan for many years as well as assisting with the liturgy in so many ways at Sunday Masses, Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings. Marie Shanahan has served on the Parish Leadership Team as one of the two Ballan delegates for many years and previously on the Parish Finance Committee. Thank you Lin, Beth and Marie.

**Parish Schools end of Year Masses:** St Brigid's and St Patrick's School communities celebrated their end of year Masses and Year 6 graduations in the Ballan and Gordon Churches during this past week. We pray for the graduating Year 6 students of our schools and thank our Principals Jayne Bosworth and Paul McDowell, the Religious Education Leaders Therese Winter and Libby McKew and each of the members of the staff of our two parish schools for their service to our schools in 2022.



## ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH ~ BUNGAREE

St Peter's, Clarkes Hill ~ St Brendan's, Dunnstown ~ St Michael's, Bungaree

Parish Administrator: Fr Sajan Mathew ~ ☎ 5334 0450 ~ C/- Post Office, Bungaree Vic 3352

Parish Leadership Team: Damien Ryan, Barry Sheehan, Dianne Reynolds, Dom Prendergast, Marty Forbes, Chris Frawley & Inez French.

Parish Secretary/Parish Office (Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm): ☎ 5334 0450 or 0492 903 409

✉ bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au ~ 🌐 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links)

Parish Schools

**St. Mary's School, Clarkes Hill**

Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 5280

[www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown**

Principal: Inez French ☎ 5334 7604

[www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au)

We are a child-safe Parish. We follow Child Safe Standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

### Collections last fortnight:

<b>Presbytery:</b> \$NA	<b>Parish:</b> \$NA
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**St Peter's Church Clarkes Hill Cleaning** Friday morning, 23 December, at 9.30 am. All welcome to help.

**Parish Schools end of Year Masses:** St Mary's Clarkes Hill and St Brendan's Dunnstown schools celebrated both Graduations and End of Year Thanksgiving masses last week. The staff did a fabulous job of having the children well prepared and everything organised so that all went smoothly. This year we farewell Stella and Liam at St Mary's and Kade, Sienna and Bonnie from St Brendan's. The graduation of Sienna Cahir and Kade McKay from St Brendan's signifies the end of an era for both the Cahir and

McKay families, but more significantly the end of an era for 86-year-old Nellie Leonard. Her connection comprises 16 years as mother, 20 years as a grandmother and 13 years as a great grandmother.

We are all so proud of our Year 6's as they come to the end of their primary school years. Our school communities wish them all well as they continue their life journey at their respective schools, and we know that they will go on to achieve great things in their lives.

### Christmas Refreshments after Mass – All Welcome:

**St Brendan's Dunnstown:** Saturday, 17 December after 6.30 pm vigil mass. Christmas cake and port.

	READER/INTERCESSION	OFFERTORY	WEEKDAY MASSES
<b>17/18 December 2022</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Isa 7: 10-14; Rom: 1: 1-7</b>		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dorothy Sheehan		Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree
Ballan – 10.30 am	Winnie Zammit		Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree
<b>24 December 2023 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Lord Isa 9:1-7; Titus 2: 11-14</b>		
Ballan – 5.30pm	Rosemary Canavan		Friday – 9.30am Bungaree
Clarkes Hill – 6pm	Powell Family		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree
Gordon – 6.30pm	To be Advised		Holy Hour – 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month
Springbank – 7.00pm	To be Advised		Friday- Benediction after 9.30 am mass
Bungaree – 8pm	Damien Ryan		Saturday-Reconciliation after 9.30am mass
<b>25 December 2022 Christmas Day</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Lord Isa 52: 7-10; Heb 1: 1-6</b>		
Dunnstown – 9am	Liz Hanrahan		
<b>31 December /1 January 2023</b>	<b>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Num 6: 22-27; Gal 4: 4-7</b>		
Dunnstown – 6.30 pm	Dianne Reynolds		
Gordon – 8.45 am	To be Advised		
Ballan – 10.30 am	Bert Jarvis		

LITURGIES /WEEKLY MASSES					
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Sat 6.30pm	Dunnstown/	Springbank	Dunnstown	Clarkes Hill	Springbank
Sun 8.45am	Gordon	Bungaree	Gordon	Gordon	Bungaree
Sun 10.30am	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan
Vigil Mass ~ Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 6.30pm - 1st Sunday ~ Daylesford 6.30pm ~3rd Sunday (Jan onwards) Sunday Masses ~ Creswick 9am – 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday; Daylesford 10.30 am – 1st, 2nd & 4th Sunday					



**Recent deaths:** Nicole Kenwick (Burvill), Anna Bartaska (her funeral will be held at St Patrick's Gordon, Tuesday, 20 December at 1.00pm)

**Anniversaries:** Brian Shanahan, Margaret Toohey, Jeanette Delbridge, John McCarthy, Patrick Green, Roma Barry, Brian Barry, Jessie Robinson, Fred Begbie, Anne-Maree (Steenhuis) Block, Anne Griffin, Monica McDermott, Fr. Daniel Devane.

**We offer our prayers for the sick:** Lyla Geary, Christine Hall, Mary Cassar, Michelle Hall, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Thelma Keating, Moira Myers, Noel Craven, Alice Gardiner and Chaiel Balcombe Jackson.

**Praying with Pope Francis:** Pope's intention for December: For volunteer not-for-profit organisations: *We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development, find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.*

**Accepting Orders:** Order Forms for the 2023 Columban Art Calendar have been placed in the churches. Cost: \$10. Or email: [bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ring 0492 903 409.

**RCIA for Children:** We are inviting expressions of interest from parents who seek baptism for their children who are 7 years and older who have not yet been baptised. *Expression of Interest Forms* have been placed in the churches or ring the Parish Office (mobile: 0492903409).

**Bishop's Appeal (Christmas Appeal):** The Christmas Appeal will be held next weekend during mass. This Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to the diocese for assistance. Total donations in 2021 were \$33,000. The Parish of Gordon's contribution last year was \$575.30.

**Christmas Stall at Nazareth House:** Nazareth House Auxiliary Christmas stall on Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18 from 10.00am – 2.00pm each day. For further information contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415.

**Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal:** Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

**2023 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** Expressions of interest are invited to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 11th - 24th 2023 - Jordan, Petra, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, Qumran. Fully escorted, all-inclusive pilgrimage accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll and arranged through Lifestyle Travel in Ballarat. Contact Fr Justin for further information (Daylesford 0448 220 685) or [info@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.au)

**Christmas Mass Parishes of Daylesford & Creswick:** 8.30pm Daylesford Christmas Eve & 9.00am Creswick Christmas Day

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 1:18–24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

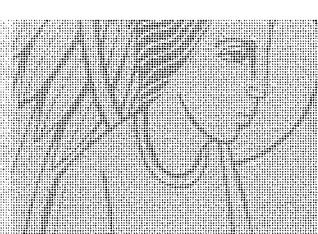
■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

18 DECEMBER 2022

## GOD CARES

While many people can assert that God exists, it is often a huge leap to be able to say with confidence that God cares about what we are going through. It is even a greater leap to be able to say that God actually cares enough to be with us in the complexity and challenges of our lives. Both the first reading from Isaiah and today's Gospel proclaim that God cares enough to be with us and that the living God often works in and through the most disturbing and surprising events. King Ahaz had given in to despair in the face of the imminent attack on Jerusalem by more powerful forces. Joseph was struggling to come to terms with Mary's pregnancy which was both disconcerting and unexpected. Both Ahaz and Joseph were led to recognise that God's presence was to be seen in the birth of a child whose very name – God with us – was a constant reminder not to lose heart in the God who loves us.

As Paul begins the letter to the Romans, he reflects on the marvellous call that he has received to be an apostle. He sets the story of Jesus firmly within the saving history of God's dealings with the people of Israel, but this is not the end of the story. The God of surprises has made it clear to Paul that what happened in the birth of Jesus belongs to all humanity. In Jesus, God has come close to all peoples and Paul's mission is to preach this message to the nations.

## FIRST READING

Isa 7:10–14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The virgin will conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESP PSALM

Ps 23:1–6. R. cf. vv. 7, 10

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Rom 1:1–7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**